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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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29 August 1945

Mr. Harold D. Smith, Director  
Bureau of the Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Smith:

In the interest of economy, both of personnel and of funds, it is essential that, subject to executive approval, we put into effect at once the plan that I recited to you in my letter of August 25th. ✓

I have asked Mr. Ream to take up with your office the details of proposed liquidation as found in the attached paper. I would greatly appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

*Wm. J. Donovan*  
William J. Donovan  
Director

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER:

ISSUED: 29 August 1945

EFFECTIVE: 27 August 1945

TO: LIST S

SUBJECT: Liquidation of OSS

1. Effective immediately, the Office of Strategic Services will commence to liquidate all functions and activities. Such liquidation will be accomplished as completely as practicable not later than on or about 1 January 1946, at which time all such functions and activities will cease and all outstanding commitments and obligations will be cancelled so far as may be permitted by law.

2. There is hereby created a Committee on Liquidation which shall be charged with responsibility for the following:

(a) Subject to the approval of the Director, establishing, coordinating and implementing an orderly and expeditious liquidation program;

(b) Insuring that the several branches promptly establish a workable liquidation schedule and that such schedule is adhered to;

(c) Insuring that all outstanding commitments and obligations are terminated as soon as possible;

(d) Generally supervising all phases of the liquidation of the agency's affairs and making recommendations thereon to the Director wherever the Committee shall deem advisable.

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3. The current reduction in force program of this agency, made necessary by the reduced 1946 budget, will cease on 31 August 1945. Thereafter all terminations of Civil Service employees will be made solely in accordance with the special rules of the Civil Service Commission applicable to separation of employees on account of liquidation. Such rules shall also apply so far as possible to employees occupying excepted position

4. The Chief, Personnel Branch, will be responsible for the following:

(a) Insuring that all applicable rules and regulations are complied with and that no employee with veteran preference is separated before an employee without veteran preference where their positions are immediately interchangeable;

(b) Within policies established by the Director and the Committee on Liquidation, fixing the time for individual separation actions, both civilian and military, to be taken, and for carrying through all such actions.

  
William C. Donovan  
Director

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